

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES.

ANNUAL REPORT of Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year ended the 31st December, 1904.

To the Rural District Council of Norham and Islandshires.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of laying before you my Annual Report for the year 1904. The Returns furnished to me by the Registrars of Births and Deaths show that 130 births were registered, 6 more than in 1903, and equal to a rate of 21·4 per 1,000 of the population (6,054).

In the same period the deaths registered of all ages and from all causes numbered 81, as against 96 in 1903, the death rate for 1904 being 13·37, as against 15·85 in the previous year, a decrease of 2·48 per 1,000.

The Local Government Board have this year issued five Official Tables of Statistics in which I have inserted the required information and transmit them herewith.

These show that I have received during the year 24 notifications of Infectious Diseases ; the previous year I received 29, and 40 in 1902. The 24 cases notified were of the following description :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

These Infectious Diseases were the cause of 2 deaths, viz. :—From Diphtheria, 1 ; Croup, 1. The cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered over the District, 11 less in number than the previous year, and were of a mild type. One of the cases of Enteric Fever was at Camp Houses, where the water being suspected, the well was cleaned out.

WATER SUPPLY.

The chief occurrences to be reported as having taken place during the past year are—At Norham, the completion of the oil engine, which has been found of much service and worked well ; an enlargement of the water tank in connection with pump and engine has proved highly satisfactory. The proposal referred to last year to convey the water from Shoreswood Sandholes for the use of the inhabitants of the cottages attached to Shoreswood Colliery has been carried out, and I am glad to be able to report that an excellent supply of water is available for both these cottages (about 30) and the Public School.

During the year consent has been given to the water being conducted to private premises in North Lane, Norham ; and a certificate granted approving of a water supply for a new house at Holy Island.

SEWERAGE AND MISCELLANEOUS.

I am enabled to record the following improvements in the District during the past year :—Royalty and Newburn Farms, new privies, drainage and spouting and houses generally repaired ; West Heaton, complete and efficient overhaul of the buildings, sewerage, and offices ; an improved system of drainage at Grindon Hall, and at East Loanend, to ensure improvements proceedings were commenced before the Justices, and are still pending.

Another year has passed without the Isolation Hospital being required to be brought into use, but I take the liberty of suggesting the desirability of the Council providing a resident caretaker. The registered dairies, which are 15 in number and accommodate 116 cows, have been frequently visited and found in perfect order.

In the District there are four factories, which have been visited frequently, and eleven workshops also regularly inspected, and all found to be satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) **JOHN PAXTON,**

Medical Officer of Health.

NORHAM,

23rd February, 1905.

